Hachimitsu Scans
~sweeter than honey~
hachimitsu-scans.blogspot.com

CH. 21
...UM,
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE HERE IN PLACE OF SHIRATORI-KUN...?
.....

IT'S OKAY.
I'M NOT ALONE RIGHT NOW.
"TSUKASA"
IS WITH ME, TOO...
キュ…
I
I'm sorry...
Asakura-kun...!

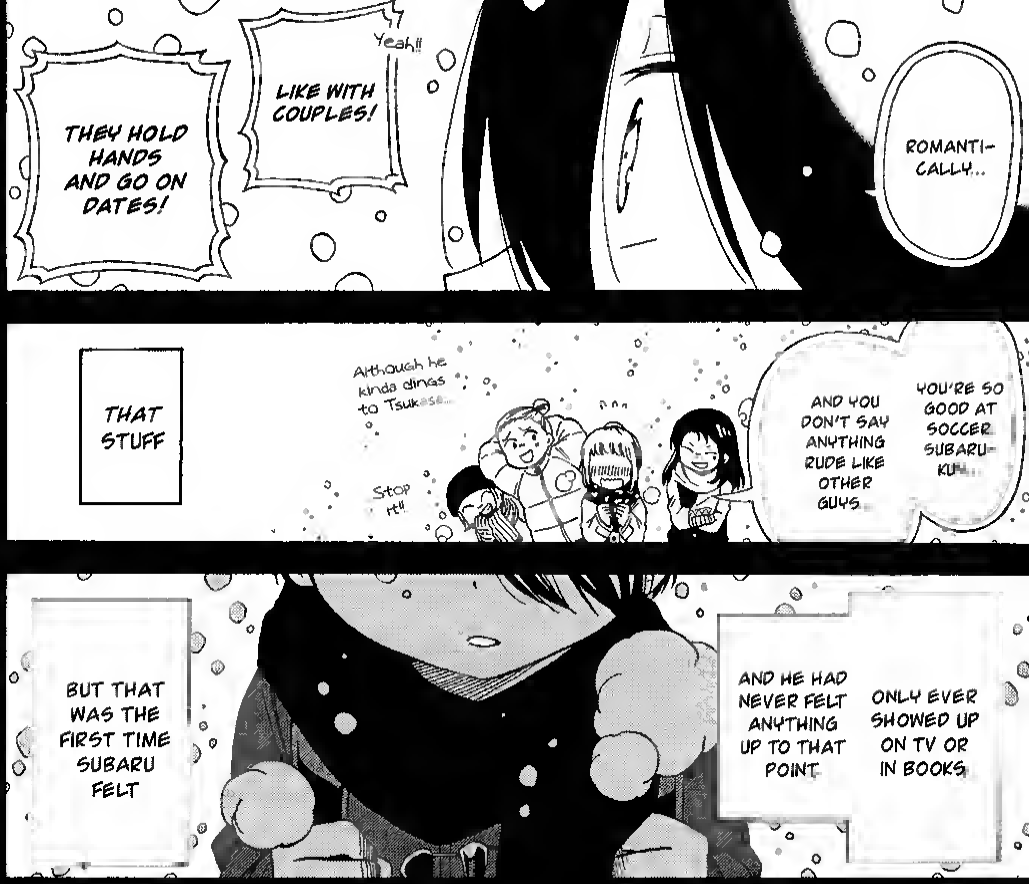
CH. 21 ★ PLEIADES

...FOR HIM.
MA-
MAKING YOU MAD, WELL...
AND SO, UM...
ABOUT GETTING IN A FIGHT WITH YOU... OR RATHER...
HE SAID HE COULDN'T SAY IT HIMSELF... SO...
SU-
SUBARU TOLD ME
ABOUT HOW YOU AND HIM WERE PI...PICKING UP GIRLS...
ラビっ
HUH !?
SO THEN
HE TOLD YOU TO APOLOGIZE TO ME IN HIS PLACE!?
ガ!

I MADE SHIRATORI-KUN MAD, TOO...
...? WELL...
WHY US...?
.....?
So you know that I went with him to pick up girls...
Haaa
I'M SORRY, SHIRATORI-SAN... THAT YOU HAD TO GO OUT OF YOUR WAY BECAUSE OF US...
...IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! THAT WAS
BECAUSE SUBARU
HAS A WEIRD REASON FOR THAT...

WHEN I THINK ABOUT NOT LOOKING LIKE MYSELF...
UH...
UMM... WELL...
...WHETHER IT WAS EARLIER, OR RIGHT NOW,
.....?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
FOR SOME REASON,
THE WORDS JUST FLOOD OUT OF ME...
I... I WANT YOU... TO LISTEN TO THIS, ASAKURA... KUN...
IN GRADE SCHOOL, SUBARU AND I WERE ON THE SOCCER TEAM.
9
6
4

AND THEN ONE DAY IN THE WINTER OF FIFTH GRADE,
ON THE TEAM WAS A GIRL I WAS ORIGINALLY FRIENDS WITH,
BUT SHE MADE FRIENDS WITH SUBARU, TOO.
THAT GIRL CONFESSED TO SUBARU.
……?
...YOU LIKE ME?
I LIKE YOU, TOO
WE'RE FRIENDS, AFTER ALL.
Mine and Tsukasa's
GEEN!
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE MEANT!
ボケー
SHE MEANT ROMANTI-CALLY!


ROMANTI-CALLY...
Yeah!!
LIKE WITH COUPLES!
THEY HOLD HANDS AND GO ON DATES!
YOU'RE SO GOOD AT SOCCER SUBARU-KU...
AND YOU DON'T SAY ANYTHING RUDE LIKE OTHER GUYS
Although he kinda dings to Tsukasa...
Stop it!!
THAT STUFF
ONLY EVER SHOWED UP ON TV OR IN BOOKS
AND HE HAD NEVER FELT ANYTHING UP TO THAT POINT
BUT THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME SUBARU FELT

THAT HE HAD BEEN "CATEGORIZED".

"IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT?"
AND GOING BY HIS IMPRESSION OF ROMANCE,
"IS THAT WHAT HAPPENS TO GUYS?"
BUT BECAUSE A GIRL CONFESSED TO HIM,
...I CAN'T REALLY PUT IT INTO WORDS,
CAT...
...EGOR ...IZED?
HE FELT LIKE HE HAD BEEN MADE OUT TO BE SOMETHING DIFFERENT THAN WHAT HE HAD BEEN UP TO THAT POINT.
EVEN THOUGH SUBARU HIMSELF SHOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED
SO SUBARU ARRIVED AT A SINGLE ANSWER.
WHAT IS THIS...?
HE WAS SELFISHLY TAKEN TO SOME UNKNOWN PLACE.
HE FELT LIKE
EVEN THOUGH HE HADN'T WISHED FOR IT.

"THAT'S JUST CREEPY."
...THAT IT WAS JUST CREEPY.
ONCE HE KNEW THAT THE GIRL HE HAD LIKED AS A FRIEND NOW LIKED HIM IN THAT WAY, HE STARTED TO FEEL

"WEREN'T YOU ACTUALLY CREEPED OUT BY IT?"
WHEN HE SAID THAT...?
...SO THAT'S WHAT SHIRATORI-KUN MEANT...
.....
SO THAT'S... NOT QUITE THE SAME...
...YEAH, IT WAS DIFFERENT FOR HIM, AS WELL AS THOSE AROUND HIM,
IF YOU'RE EMBARRASSED ABOUT IT, WE'LL TELL HER WHAT YOU SAID! ♪
SUBARU-KUN, WHEN ARE YOU GONNA GIVE HER A REPLY?
BUT...
Umm, I... TOTALLY THOUGHT... ...THAT HE JUST SIMPLY FELT IT WAS CREEPY... TO BE LIKED BY SOMEONE THAT WASN'T HIS TYPE... OR BY SOMEONE HE HAD NO INTEREST IN...

WEREN'T YOU HER FRIEND!?
YOU'RE THE WORST!
WE CAN'T TELL HER THAT!
HOW CRU-EL...
CREEPY!? WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
Huh?
YOU MEAN THE FAMOUS TWILIGHT PRINCE FROM OUR SCHOOL!?
WAY TO GO!!
WH...WHAT SHOULD I DO!? THE TWILIGHT PRINCE CONFESSED TO ME! I'M SO HAPPY!
TSUKASA,
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF ONE OF THE GUYS IN CLASS CONFESSED TO YOU?
.....
These spikes are so cool! I want them!

WHERE'S THIS COMING FROM OUT OF THE BLUE!?
Whoa...
WITH YOCCHAN OR NACCHY...
LET'S SAY YOU WENT ON A DATE OR HELD HANDS
WHAT!?

UGH!
IT GIVES ME THE GOOSE-BUMPS!
WHEN I THINK OF THOSE GUYS TREATING ME LIKE A GIRL...
!!
REALLY?
SHAKE

EWW...
THAT'D JUST BE CREEPY

YEAH!
HE WAS HAPPY
THAT I WAS THE SAME AS HIM.

Those guys treat me like I'm just one of the guys, after all.
DON'T ASK ME WEIRD STUFF LIKE THAT.
SO YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY...
...I SEE...

HE FELT THAT THINKING THAT WAY
ANYWAY, WANNA GO PLAY SOCCER?
YEAH!
WAS NORMAL.
...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT,
DID SHE EVEN FEEL THE SAME THING AS ME WAS "CREEPY"...?
...NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
TO ME,
WE WERE THE SAME.
...BUT I'M NOT LIKE THAT ANYMORE.
!
AFTER ALL,
I WAS HAPPY WHEN YOU ASKED ME OUT.
BECAUSE HE FELT THAT HE HAD LOST A KINDRED SPIRIT.
THAT MADE... SUBARU... GO INTO A PANIC,

AH!
WELL,
I'M JUST SURPRISED SHIRATORI-KUN KNOWS ABOUT THAT, TOO...
...WHAT?
HUH?
AND HE FOUND OUT THAT I HAVE SOMEONE I LIKE...
IT'S WEIRD THAT I KNOW ABOUT IT...
OH YEAH...
.....
WELL, WHATEVER.
HE OVERHEARD ME
WHEN I WAS CHEWING OUT KOTOOKA ON THE PHONE FOR TELLING YOU ABOUT IT.
I'LL JUST RANDOMLY GLOSS OVER IT.
MY LIES JUST KEEP PILING ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER.
I DON'T REALLY CARE IF SUBARU KNOWS ABOUT IT, THOUGH.

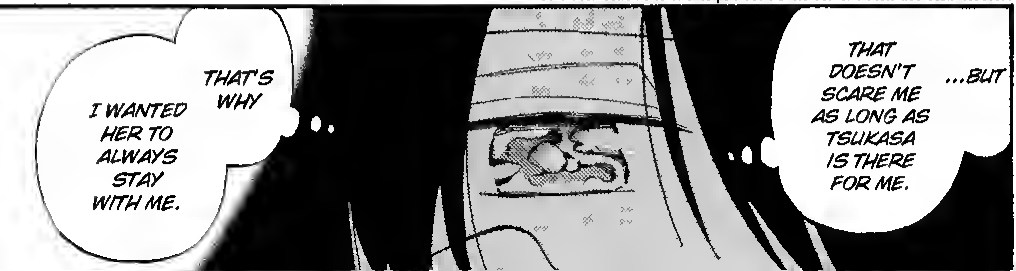
WHY AM I TALKING TO HIM LIKE THIS RIGHT NOW
AFTER TELLING HIM ALL THOSE LIES?
...I THINK THAT'S...
BASICALLY IT...
HE TRIED TO LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO "LIKE" SOMEONE...
...ISN'T THAT WEIRD?
...THEN SHIRATORI-KUN
WANTED TO PICK UP GIRLS
BECAUSE HE WAS TRYING TO CHANGE HIS WAY OF THINKING...?
...I CAN SEE WHY
HE'D BE SO CONFUSED IF HE WAS DIFFERENT FROM OTHERS AROUND HIM...
I GUESS SHIRATORI-KUN... HAS BEEN THINKING ABOUT A LOT OF STUFF IN HIS OWN WAY...
I...HAD NO IDEA...

Hmm
DOESN'T THAT MEAN...
EVEN IF THAT SOMEONE IS ME...
NO MATTER WHO IT IS, YOU PUT YOUR ALL INTO THINKING ABOUT SOMEONE.
...YOU REALLY ARE RED.
THAT SHIRATORI-KUN IS ASEXUAL?
=
ASEX...?
?
ASEXUAL...
SEXUAL AVERSION...
AND THERE WAS ALSO SOMETHING CALLED SEXUAL AVERSION.
Mutter
Mutter
Ah!
I'VE READ ABOUT IT IN BOOKS BEFORE.
I THINK IT DESCRIBES PEOPLE THAT DON'T FEEL SEXUAL ATTRACTION TOWARDS OTHERS.

...EVEN IF YOU GIVE A NAME TO IT LIKE THAT,
IT DOESN'T REALLY MEAN MUCH OF ANYTHING...
I DON'T THINK IT REALLY MATTERS
UNLESS SUBARU FIGURES IT OUT FOR HIMSELF...
...GOOD POINT.
WE WON'T GET ANYWHERE EVEN IF WE TALK ABOUT THIS WHEN HE'S NOT HERE.
...I DON'T... REALLY GET IT MYSELF.
I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THAT BEFORE, AFTER ALL...
...I DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT MYSELF...

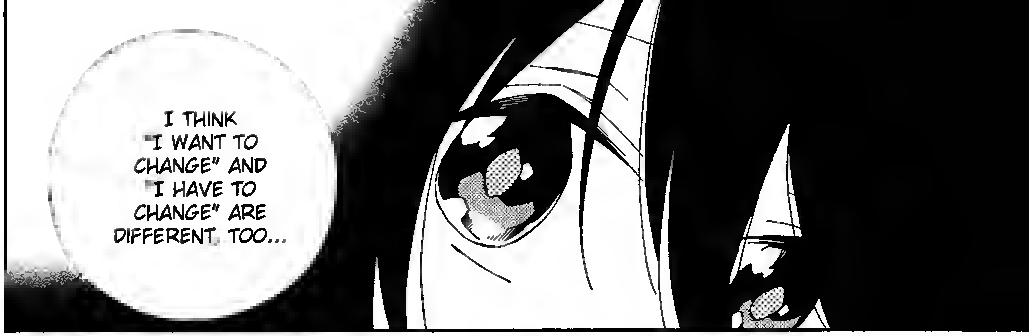
THERE ISN'T ANY PARTICULAR REASON WHY.
WHY AM I LIKE THIS?
WERE ALL SMALL BY THEMSELVES,
BUT A LOT OF THEM PILED ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER
ALL THE TIMES I'VE FELT OUT OF PLACE UP TO NOW,
AND MY OWN QUESTIONS ABOUT THOSE AROUND ME.
UNTIL THEY HAD FINALLY COME TOGETHER INTO A SINGLE CLUSTER
TO FORM THE CURRENT "SUBARU".

TL note: Subaru is the Japanese name for the Pleiades star cluster.

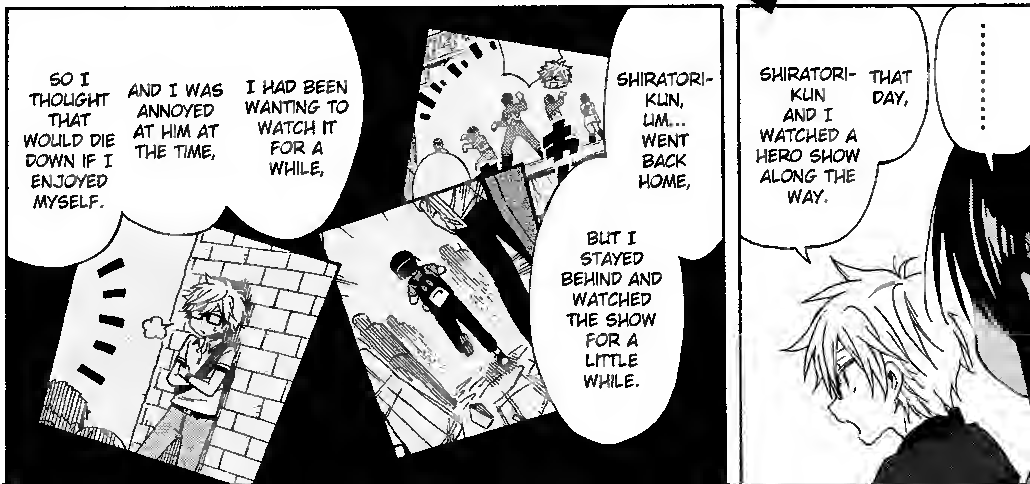


TSUKASA...
.....
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOW...
TSUKASA IS...
...I'M LONELY.
I DON'T WANT THAT,
TSU-KASA...

I STILL WANT TO WAIT FOR TSUKASA...!
IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW SHE FEELS IN A WORLD THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO ABOUT THAT.
IN THE END, ALL SHE HAS TO DO IS COME FOR ME...!
JUST LIKE BACK THEN...
...BUT SHIRATORI-KUN DOESN'T HAVE TO FORCE HIMSELF
TO CHANGE THAT WAY OF THINKING.


I THINK "I WANT TO CHANGE" AND "I HAVE TO CHANGE" ARE DIFFERENT, TOO...

I JUST CAN'T STAY CALM AROUND GUYS LIKE THAT...
I LIKE SHIRATORI-KUN JUST THE WAY HE IS!
Let's go pick up girls! Yaaaay!
BESIDES,
IF HE HAS TO DO STUFF LIKE THAT, THEN I'D RATHER HE JUST STAY THE SAME!!!


SO I THOUGHT THAT WOULD DIE DOWN IF I ENJOYED MYSELF.
AND I WAS ANNOYED AT HIM AT THE TIME,
I HAD BEEN WANTING TO WATCH IT FOR A WHILE,
SHIRATORI-KUN, UM... WENT BACK HOME,
BUT I STAYED BEHIND AND WATCHED THE SHOW FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
THAT DAY,
SHIRATORI-KUN AND I WATCHED A HERO SHOW ALONG THE WAY.

WITHOUT SUBARU...?
BUT
IT WAS SO UNSATISFYING WITHOUT HIM.
Well,
WE'VE BEEN SHARING THAT STUFF LATELY.

SO I ALWAYS GET CARRIED AWAY...
I know that, but I prefer the original five rangers!
They have the handicap of joining midway through, so what can they do?
I like them since they're cool
It's so unforgivable that the additional rangers have flashier costumes!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE GOTTEN TO TALK WITH SOMEONE ABOUT IT,

SINCE I
GOT IN A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE, TOO.
...OH YEAH.
IT HAD... BEEN A WHILE

MORE FUN WITH SUBARU THERE WITH ME!
THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
I WAS THINKING THE WHOLE TIME
WHILE I WAS WATCHING THE HERO SHOW,

WHY
"IT'S MORE FUN WHEN I'M WITH YOU!"
HUH?
DID HOW YOU CALL SHIRATORI-KUN RUB OFF ON ME...?
I said his name.
ARE YOU
SAYING
THAT TO ME...?

EVEN THOUGH YOU ALWAYS

Th-

THE SUN IS SO BRIGHT...!!

Wh-

WHEN DID IT CLEAR UP ALL OF A SUDDEN?

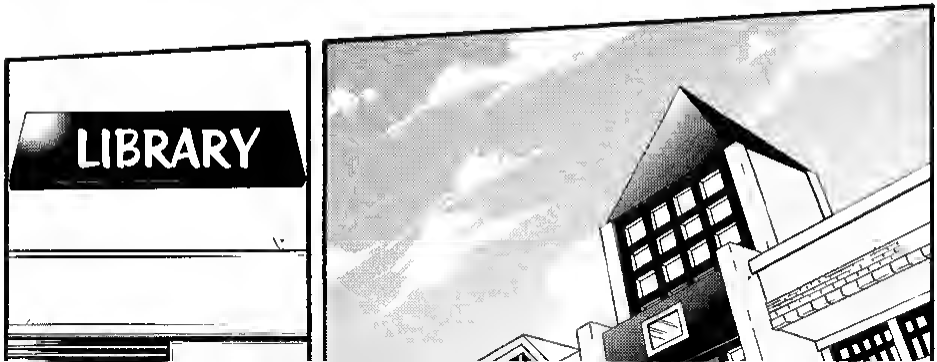
SAY THINGS THAT I MOST DON'T WANT TO HEAR...

THANKS, SHIRA-TORI-SAN.
I'LL TRY TALKING TO SHIRATORI-KUN ABOUT IT AT SCHOOL.
.....
.....
ABOUT SHIRATORI-KUN,
!!!
IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR US TO GO.
It's almost time to go to school
WON'T SOMETHING ABOUT HIM CHANGE?
IF HE FINDS SOMEONE HE LIKES TOO,

Although I guess you'd worry as his older sister
YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM THAT MUCH.
SO I DON'T THINK
WELL, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT WITHOUT HIM HERE, THOUGH.
Later
IF I FIND...
.....
...SOMEONE I LIKE...?

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
.....
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME
SOMEONE...
EVEN THOUGH... "LIKING" SOMEONE IS SCARY...
WHY...
DOES EVERYONE ACCEPT IT...?
I WOULDN'T BE MYSELF IF TSUKASA WASN'T THE MOST IMPORTANT TO ME...
IF EVEN I CHANGE,
I WON'T BE WAITING FOR TSUKASA ANYMORE...
SOMEONE BEING MORE IMPORTANT TO ME...
THAN TSUKASA...

I DON'T...
WANT THAT...


LIBRARY

I DON'T WANT TO SEE ASA-KURA...
Haaaaa...
WHY... DID I... DO THAT... IN THE MORNING...!?
I GRADUALLY CALMED DOWN BACK AT HOME...
BUT THERE WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME!!
I DRESSED UP AS "TSU-KASA"...
AND TOLD HIM ALL THAT STUFF ABOUT ME...!
NOW THERE ARE MORE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN TSUKASA AND "TSUKASA"...!
Ahhh!
Am I a moron!?

...DO I WANT TO MAKE UP WITH ASAKURA THAT BADLY...?
.....
...I NEVER INTENDED TO TELL ANYONE THAT...
THERE'S NO USE IN TELLING HIM...
AND NOTHING'S GONNA CHANGE BY TALKING ABOUT IT...
NO... LIKE HE SAID...
I tend to like motifs based on occupations, like with police officers and carpenters...
I like Japanese style motifs... like ninja and fleeing warriors...
IT'S JUST THAT IT'S KINDA NICE... TALKING ABOUT SUPERHERO SHOWS...
YEAH... PLUS ... THESE CLOTHES!
I HAVE TO GIVE THESE BACK TO HIM...
SO I'LL JUST GIVE THEM BACK RIGHT AWAY
AND THEN EVERYTHING WILL BE BACK TO NORMAL...
ASA-KURA!

U... UM... HERE...
ARE... YOUR CLO- THES... BACK...
K...
...BEFORE WE GET TO THAT,
UM... TSUKASA TOLD ME... THAT IN THE MORNING...
.....?

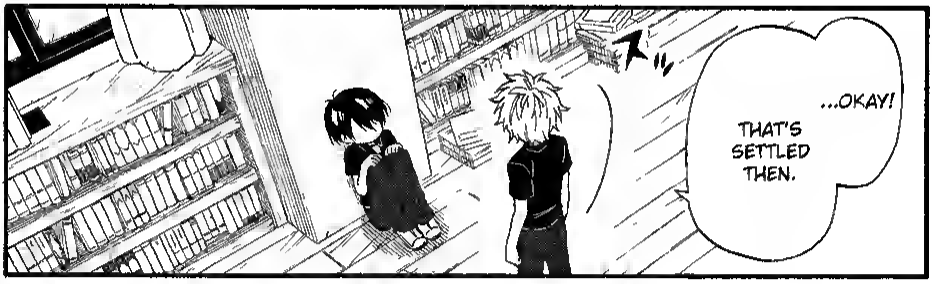
DON'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY TO ME?

FWUMP
...I
I'M SORRY...
スッ
へな
へな...
YEAH,
I'M SORRY, TOO.

...I'M WELL-AWARE THAT YOU'RE THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT CAN'T APOLOGIZE...
AHHH! THAT FELT GOOD!
WE REALLY HAVE TO SAY THAT TO EACH OTHER DIRECTLY FOR STUFF LIKE THIS!
...UH... WHAT WAS THAT...?
BUT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN ANNOYING IF IT WAS ONLY ME APOLOGIZING,
SO I WAS ONLY TRYING TO SCARE YOU...
Sorry about that
BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO REACT SO STRONGLY TO IT...
.....
Paralyzed
...I JUST TRIED TO IMITATE HOW I USED TO BE, THOUGH...
AND ALSO, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?
TH...THAT WAS NOTHING LIKE WHEN TSUKASA GETS MAD AT ME...!!
SUBARU!
Pissed

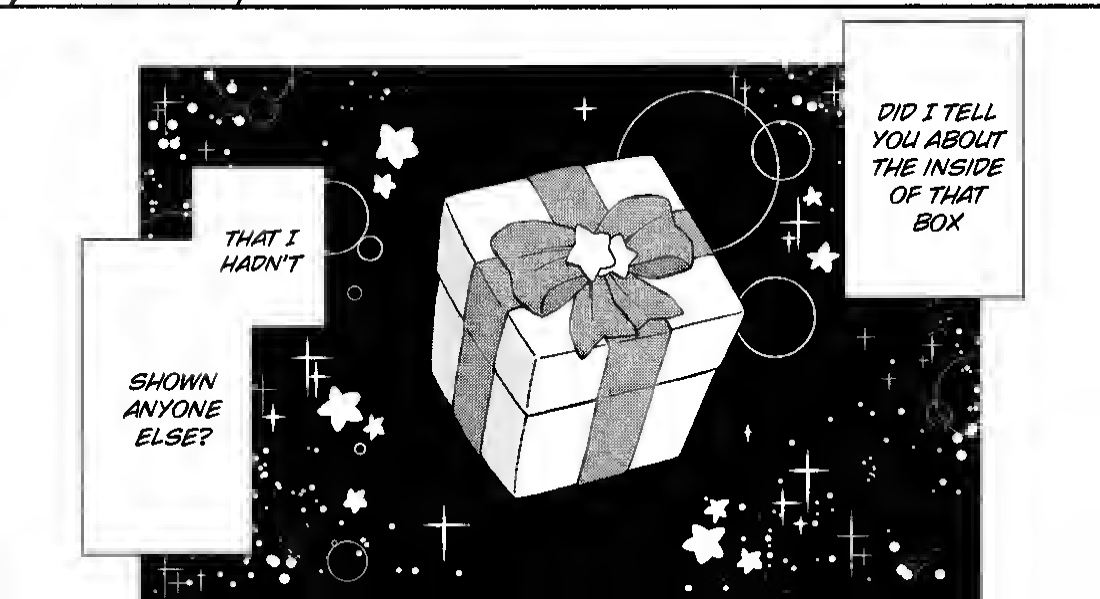
IN THE FIRST PLACE
WHY DID YOU LET ME MEET UP WITH SHIRATORI-SAN?
DON'T YOU FIND ANYTHING THAT HAS TO DO WITH LOVE CREEPY?
THAT SAID, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M ROOTING FOR YOU, EITHER.
I let you meet up with her originally on a whim.
YEAH,
YOU'D JUST ROOT FOR SHIRATORI-SAN AS HER BROTHER, RIGHT?
YEAH, OF COUR
SE...
Ugh
IF IT'S WITH SOMEONE THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME,
THEN I DON'T FEEL THAT WAY.
I'M NOT LYING ABOUT THAT.
IS THAT HOW IT WORKS...?
ANYWAY, DON'T TALK ABOUT WHAT TSUKASA TOLD YOU ABOUT ME IN THE MORNING ANYMORE!
EVEN TO TSU-KASA OR TO ME!
TSUKASA JUST TOLD YOU THAT ON HER OWN!!

...IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED HIM TO APOLO-GIZE...
Well, whatever.
SO I'M REALLY SORRY.
...ALL RIGHT.
EVEN THOUGH I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, I STILL SAID ALL THAT,


...OKAY!
THAT'S SETTLED THEN.

LET'S GET TO OUR LIBRARY DUTIES!
Can you stand?

...ASAKURA IS MY ENEMY...
THAT SHOULDN'T HAVE CHANGED...
SO THEN
WHY


DID I TELL YOU ABOUT THE INSIDE OF THAT BOX
THAT I HADN'T
SHOWN ANYONE ELSE?

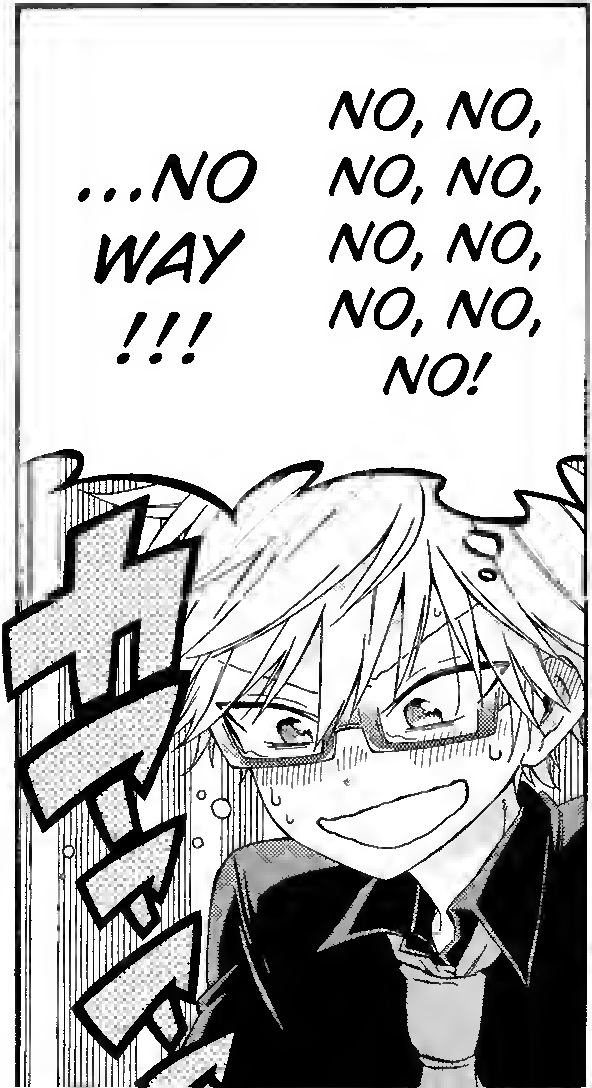
...MAY-BE
I WAS THINKING,
I SOMETIMES MIX UP CALLING YOU TWO "SHIRATORI-SAN" AND "SHIRATORI-KUN"...
...HUH?
YOU'RE NORMALLY TALKING TO ME ABOUT TSUKASA...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK I'M USING YOU AS AN EXCUSE!
FUME
A little while ago
Huh?
I'VE BEEN BRINGING HER UP NORMALLY FOR A WHILE NOW...
You're saying that now!?
AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE WE HAVE
TO WORRY ABOUT THAT ANYMORE.
AND SO,
CAN I CALL YOU BY YOUR NAME FROM NOW ON?
AND THEN YOU CAN ALSO CALL ME...
I...

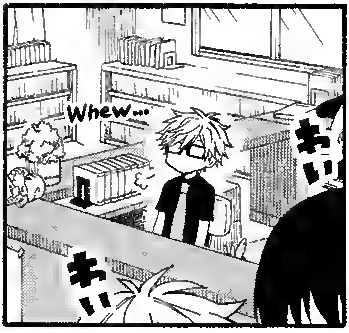
THINK OF YOU...
...YEAH,
OKAY.
AS A FRIEND...

ASAKURA-KUN, CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THE FRONT DESK?
O... OKAY...
I'LL SORT THESE BOOKS.
Ah, THEY'RE CALLING YOU.
Squeeze
...YEAH, I CAN'T SAY THAT.
...HUH? THEN WHAT IS...
ASAKURA TO ME...?
.....
Hmm...
...YEAH, RIGHT.
I'M TRICKING ASAKURA TO BEGIN WITH,
SO THERE'S NO WAY I CAN SAY I'M HIS FRIEND.

I guess he's just my enemy with some similar interests.
.....?

PLEASE RETURN THE BOOK IN A WEEK.


NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!
...NO WAY !!!


Whew...
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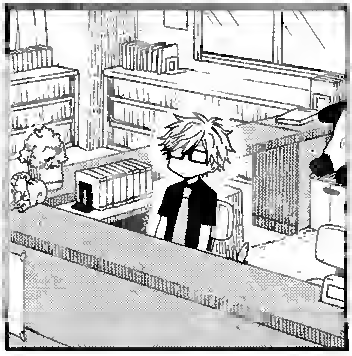
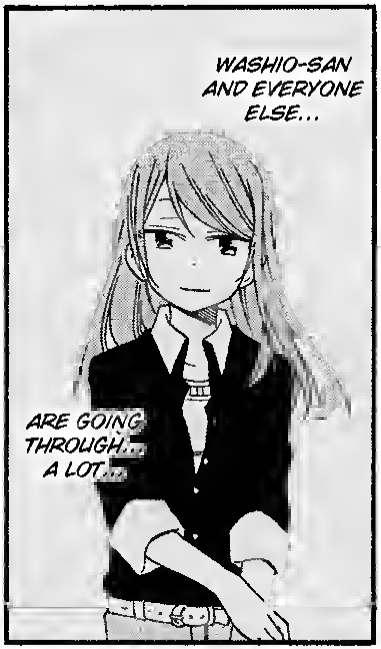
キィ

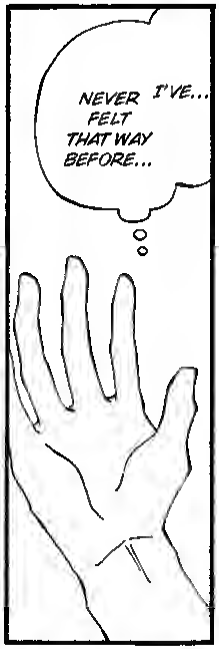


TO MAKE AN EXPRESSION LIKE THAT...!!
DIDN'T EXPECT HIM...
I JUST...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!!!
NO...
HUH!?
SUBARU IS A GUY!! AND HE'S MY FRIEND!!
SHIRA-TORI-KU...
NO MATTER HOW SIMILAR THEY LOOK...
Ahhh!
DON'T COME OUT, WASHIO-SAN...!!
Let's say it was Su-baru-kun
Su-baru-kun
How would you feel if someone of the same sex was in love with you...?
I'M JUST OVERTHINKING IT BECAUSE OF WASHIO-SAN...!!
.....
THERE'S NO WAY... THAT I CAN FACE SHIRATORI-SAN OR SUBARU LIKE THIS...!!
Urgh...
GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF, KYOUSUKE ASAKURA!

"CATEGO-RIZED"...
...BUT STILL,
Whew...

IF I WAS GOING TO BE HANGING OUT WITH SUBARU FROM NOW ON?
DID SHIRATORI-SAN TELL ME THAT BECAUSE SHE WANTED ME TO LET HER KNOW


WASHIO-SAN AND EVERYONE ELSE...
ARE GOING THROUGH... A LOT...


I'VE... NEVER FELT THAT WAY BEFORE...

OR A TEACHER AT HER SCHOOL ...?
OR HER FRIEND'S BOY-FRIEND ...?
WHAT IF SHE LIKES A GIRL LIKE WASHIO-SAN...?
!!
AH!

...COME TO THINK OF IT,
IS THERE SOMETHING GOING ON...
WITH WHO SHIRATORI-SAN LIKES, TOO...?

THERE'S NO WAY A BUNCH OF PEOPLE WITH THOSE KINDS OF CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD NATURALLY GATHER ALL IN ONE PLACE...
...WAIT,
over-thinking it..
I'm just
Forbidden sparkles
WHAT IF IT'S SUBARU ...?
Forbidden scent
Forbidden roses
...WHAT'S SUBARU GOING TO DO ONCE HE FINDS SOMEONE HE LIKES?
...IT'S A LITTLE HARD TO IMAGINE, THOUGH.
Eh heh!
BUT AT THAT TIME,
I WANT HIM TO TELL ME.

I WANT TO HEAR
SUBARU SAY IT HIMSELF.
AT THAT TIME,
I REMEMBER THINKING THIS.
"SOMEDAY,

WHEN YOU FIND SOMEONE YOU LIKE,
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO FEEL?"
"WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO LOOK LIKE?"

"I WANT TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT YOU."